Cooperative Audit of National Parks. State of Play

17-10-2014
Participating countries

Poland, Norway, Denmark, Lithuania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Croatia

Coordinating country: Lithuania
Type of Audit

Coordinated audit (with a Joint Report based on national reports)
Audit Objectives

To facilitate sharing of audit experiences, to disseminate common findings and differences and to support additional national audits.

- To assess if national parks are managed appropriately
- To address challenges of conservation and protection of biodiversity in national parks
- To evaluate if public funds are being spent in a best way allowing to achieve the goals of national parks.
Audit Time Frame

Audited period: 2010 to 2012
Joint report to be released by the end of 2014

Dates of national audits:

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Audit Findings

The audit results show that national parks in most of participating countries in general are performing their functions and working towards achieving the goals set by their respective governments:

• Importance of management plans;
• There is a potential conflict of interests between the use of national parks and the protection of nature and against threats to the national parks
• Raising additional income may be in conflict with the protection and conservation of nature.
Audit Recommendations

• In order to ensure that national parks work towards achieving specific goals, all national parks should have management plans that should be operational and measurable.

• In order to ensure that each park reaches its objectives and specific targets, the authorities should monitor more closely the performance of the national parks and evaluate whether the objectives of the parks are met.

• In order for national parks to carry out their functions, public financing should be based on a needs' assessment of each national park.
Project group meetings

1. Kick-off meeting March 2012, Warsaw (Poland)
2. Meeting to finalise The project Plan May 2013, Vilnius (Lithuania)
3. Meeting to decide format of national contributions (cases), format of the joint report and sharing of work load and responsibilities March 2014 Lvov (Ukraine) (?)
4. Meeting to agree on the first draft of the joint report, June 2014, Norway
Lessons Learnt

- Importance of being earnest/planning
- Less is more/Audit approach (?)
- Perfect is enemy of good/report writing
Questions to be answered

• Are the national parks making a difference?

• How should – and can – the national parks develop?

• What measures should be taken to increase the nature content of the national parks?